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Die Martis, 9 Ianuarii. 1643.

# An Ordinance of the Lords and Commons Assembled in Parliament, concerning the Excise of Flesh-Victuals, and Salt.

**T**H E Lords and Commons assembled in Parliament, having by an Ordinance, dated the eleventh of September last, set a Rate of Excise and New-Impost, upon severall Commodities, as well Native as Forain, for the maintenance of the Armies raised in defence of the King and Parliament, and other great Affairs of the Common-wealth; amongst which, they had special regard to the Navy, for guard of the Seas: And now finding, that through the losse of severall Ports of the Kingdom, and daily decay of Trade, the Navy cannot bee sufficiently maintained out of the revenue of the Customes, as these times of imminent danger do require, nor such a convenient Fleet set forth this next Summer, for the guard of the Seas, defence of the Kingdom, and preservation of Trade, without further supply of Monies to bee raised by some equall, and indifferent way, as may bee most easie to the well-affected Subjects of this Kingdom.

Bee it therefore ordained, by the said Lords and Commons, That from, and after the tenth day of this instant January, all the severall sorts, and kinds of Flesh Meats, as also all Salt imported, or made within this Kingdom, shall pay the severall Rates of Excise, or New-Impost, hereafter appointed and specified, according as the said Excise is hereby directed to bee levied, and paid: Viz.

That all Forain Salt imported, or to be imported into the Kingdom of England, Dominion of Wales, and Town of Barwick, shall pay one penny upon every Gallon, to be paid by the first Buyer of such Salt.

That all Salt made within the Kingdoms of England and Scotland, and Dominion of Wales, shall pay one half penny upon every Gallon. And that all Salt upon Salt, that is made of Salt, within the said Kingdom of England and dominion of Wales, which hath once paid the Excise, shall pay one farthing upon every Gallon, to be paid by the maker of all such Salt; before such time as the said Salt shall bee put to sale. And that all Salt upon Salt, that is made of Salt in the Kingdom of Scotland, which hath once paid the Excise, shall pay one farthing upon every Gallon, to be paid by the first Buyer of such Salt; And that all other Salt upon Salt, imported or to be imported, in the said Kingdom of England, dominion of Wales, and Town of Barwick, shall pay one penny half penny upon every Gallon, to be paid by the first buyer of such Salt; Provided always, That no Salt vendued upon Fishing shall bee liable to this Excise.

That all Beefes, Muttons, Veals, Poiks, Lambs, and other Butchers meat, to bee killed for provision of Victuals, shall pay one shilling in every twenty shillings value of the Beast, when he is living.

That all Conies or Rabbits, shall pay one halt penny a piece.

That all Pigeons shall pay after the rate of one penny, for every dozen.

That all Butcher, or others, who do kill, and sell any Beef, Veal, Mutton, Lamb, Pork, or any other Swines-flesh whatsoever, for the Market, or sale, do weekly give account to such Office of Excise under which their dwelling, or other place of residence is; And at that same time, pay the Excise before mentioned, upon forfeiture of double the value of all such Beasts, and other Cattle, as by two Witnesses, or other good proof shall be proved to have been killed at any time, after the tenth day of January 1643. for which no Excise hath been paid; and further, To bee restrained from the buying and selling of any Flesh-Meat, for one whole yeer, after such proof as aforesaid.

That all Poulterers and others, who make sale of any Rabbits or Pigeons, do weekly make like account to the Office of Excise under which their habitation and Trading is, of all Rabbits and Pigeons by them sold from time to time, and at the same time pay the duty of Excise before appointed in this particular, upon the like penalty respectively, and to bee restrained from such Trading and Dealing in any kind whatsoever, for one whole yeer after.

That all house-keepers, who for their own spending, shall at any time kill any Beefes, Calves, Sheep, Lambs, Porkers, Rabbits or Pigeons, shall weekly pay Excise after the rate aforesaid, unto such Collector or Collectors as shall bee appointed to that purpose. And all persons who shall refuse or neglect to give a true weekly Account, either of their killing for sale, or of their own expence, as aforesaid, shall bee liable, upon proof of one or two witnesses, as before directed, to the fine of treble the value, *toties quoties*, to bee levied by distresse, and, in default thereof, unto imprisonment, untill the Excise and penalty be both satisfied.

That all Sum and Sums of money received by vertue of this Ordinance, upon any Butchers meate, Rabbits and Pigeons, before mentioned; as also, of all Salt imported, or made in the Land, be appropriated to the maintenance of the Navie, and from time to time issued and payed out, according to the orders of the Committee of the House of Commons for the Navie, which shall be a sufficient discharge to the Commissioners for Excise, being signed by the hand of the Chair-man of that Committee for the time being.

That John Towse, Thomas Foot, John Kendricke, and Thomas Cullum, Esquires, Aldermen of the City of London; Simon Edmonds, John Lamot, and Edward Claxton of London, Esquires, shall be commissioners for the receipt of the before-mentioned Excise, according as they are already appointed and authorized by Ordinance of the eleventh of September last, for the receipt of the Excise and New-Impost therein rated and expressed, and receive the like allowance of six pence in every pound for the receipt; And shall and may likewise execute all and every thing and things therein prescribed, for the better managing of this work, *mutatis mutandis*, as shall bee requisite, for the due performance of this Ordinance, according to the true intent and meaning thereof; And that Thomas Fawkonbridge, and William Bond, Gentlemen, shall bee Auditors to execute this Ordinance by the same Rules and Limitations as they are authorized by the former Ordinance of Excise.

And all persons who shall seek to elude this Ordinance, by concealment, or other fraudulent practice, or by non-payment of the Excise as aforesaid, shall be subject to all Fines, Forfeiture, Imprisonment, or other punishment whatsoever, as in the said Ordinance of the eleventh of September last is more at large Declared and Ordained.

Provided, That in case there shall happen to be an overplus of Money arising by vertue of this Ordinance, which shall not be necessary for the support of the Navy, That in such cases the overplus shall not be disposed to any uses, but by Order of both Houses of Parliament.

Provided, That this Ordinance shall continue in full force for one whole yeer after the date hereof.

Hen. Elfyng Cler. Parl. D. Com.